

Supply—Labour

week, which is a very accurate and sober appraisal of the situation. Nor can it give the minister much satisfaction to hear what Mr. Macaulay, the minister of trade and industry or whatever it is—they change names in Toronto so often that it is hard to keep up with them—said the other day. He said that we have to have a million more jobs in this country in the next few years, and that is true because our population continues to grow, and employment is not growing with it. That is the problem.

Mr. Pallett: What was wrong with that statement?

Mr. Pickersgill: It is a difficult problem. It is a problem that we on this side of the house are very anxious to co-operate in solving, if any solutions are offered; but this government refuses to offer solutions. It pretends that the problem does not exist. It is very difficult to co-operate with people who have to take the initiative but have no initiative to take, and do not know how to take an initiative. This is also, of course, completely out of accord with the pretensions of the government when it came into office with respect to this matter.

I want to say a word or two about those pretensions because they are very relevant. If the government had really done the things they promised we would not be asked to pass this vote now. Therefore what I am about to say is strictly relevant. We know that unemployment and, indeed, even employment were hardly mentioned at all by hon. gentlemen opposite five years ago when they were out of power and seeking office. They now pretend that unemployment then was a terrible problem and a terrible mess, but they were not bright enough to see it then. I have gone over the Prime Minister's utterances fairly frequently and I cannot find a reference to unemployment in any of them.

Mr. Walker: He did not have the hidden report.

Mr. Pickersgill: Before June 10, 1957 it is true that on one occasion, April 25, 1957, he did say in Toronto that full employment with the highest possible standard of living would be one of the primary objectives of his government. Sir, if that has continued to be one of their primary objectives, no government has ever fallen farther from the achievement of an objective than this government has because, as I say, employment-wise they have taken the country back to the days when we last had a Tory government in the 30's. Then; the Prime Minister told the premiers in November, 1957, that there was just a brief pause and not to worry about unemployment. He had then been in office for five months and that

was his considered judgment given to the premiers at the federal-provincial conference. He told them it was just a pause, nothing serious. On December 10, 1957, the Minister of Labour went to Montreal and made a speech in which he said that all economists agreed that unemployment was not a bit serious and was going to go away in no time.

In 1958, when they finally had to face the facts during the election campaign, what did they tell the people? What kind of hopes did they hold out? Did they tell the people they were going to increase relief 800 per cent? Is that what the people were told? No; what they told them was that "no one will suffer from unemployment". There are many variations of this theme, sir, and since there has been a lot of dispute about it perhaps it would be as well if the record were set straight. In a telecast from Montreal on February 18, 1958, the Prime Minister said:

As long as I am Prime Minister... everything that can be done—everything without regard to limit—will be done to the end that no one will suffer.

"Everything without regard to limit". At Coxheath, Nova Scotia, on February 28 he said—

Mr. Pallett: What comes after the word "suffer" in that first quotation? You surely have not got the end of a sentence there.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have given the complete quotation and the hon. gentleman can look it up for himself. If he thinks there is anything wrong with it he can refute it. The Prime Minister was reported in the *Montreal Star* to have said in Coxheath, Nova Scotia, on February 28, 1958:

No Canadian without work would suffer as long as I am Prime Minister regardless of whether we have deficit financing or not.

That was the second promise about "no one will suffer". Then, in a telecast from Toronto on March 4, 1958, he said:

As long as I am Prime Minister this government will not rest while one Canadian remains out of work. No one will be allowed to suffer.

Then we all know the Prime Minister's favorite quotation. It is one that has reference to public works. He did make a reference once or twice to public works in connection with this matter, but only once or twice. Most of the time he made other statements that he does not seem to like to remember so well. In one reported speech at Prince Albert on February 14, 1958, he was quoted as adding after "no one will suffer" the words "so far as public works can meet the situation". If anyone dares to suggest that promise has been kept, "so far as public works can meet the situation"—